



Mayor Patrick J. Furey's 2014 State of the City Address

Patrick J. Furey was first elected to the Torrance City Council on June 3, 2008. He garnered the mayoral seat in 2014. As Mayor, he serves as Chair of the State Legislative Advocacy Committee and Federal Legislative Advocacy Committee; and Voting Delegate for the Independent Cities Association, Sanitation District of Los Angeles County, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and West Vector Control District of Los Angeles County.

Patrick J. Furey is a military veteran. He graduated with honors from the UCLA Attorney Assistant Training Program. He holds a juris doctor degree and is a member of the California State Bar Association, the Los Angeles County Bar Association, and the California County Counsel Association. He recently retired from the County of Los Angeles as a Principal Deputy County Counsel assigned to the Children's Services Division.

Patrick is married to wife Terry. They have two children and two grandsons.

BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

“May you have the hindsight to know where you've been,
the foresight to know where you are going,
and the insight to know when you have gone too far.”

Good afternoon, everyone! On behalf of the City of Torrance and the Torrance City Council, thank you for joining me today. I must tell you how excited I am to deliver my inaugural State of the City. Torrance is such a great City, and being here today as your mayor is truly a great honor.

Before I get started, I'd like to introduce all of my colleagues on the Torrance City Council: Councilwoman Ashcraft, Councilman Barnett, Councilman Goodrich, Councilman Griffiths, Councilman Rizzo, and Councilman Weideman. I'd also like to introduce our newly elected City Clerk Rebecca Poirier, and lastly our recently re-elected City Treasurer Dana Cortez. And I want to publically thank all of them for the hard work they have done and for all of the efforts I know they will continue over the next four years in helping me govern our great city – keeping Torrance moving in the right direction!

I would also like to thank our City Manager – LeRoy J. Jackson, assistant City Manager – Mary Giordano, City Attorney – John Fellows - and the entire executive staff of our city along with all of our wonderful employees who get the job done with little fanfare. I also need to offer special thanks to Margie Werner, Toni Gurrola, Linda Fischer, Dorothy Ellis, and the entire clerical staff at City Hall, all of whom helped to make the transition from Councilmember to Mayor so seamless.

Thank you also to Michael Smith, Jin Chun, Jamie Le, and Jill Reed who helped me organize my thoughts and words, and who produced the video for today.

Lastly and most importantly, special thanks to my wife Terry, my daughter Sunday, my son Patrick and my grandsons Shae and Dylan Cardenas for their unconditional support – always.

At this time, I'd like to share with you an Irish Proverb that I had hanging in my Los Angeles County Counsel office up until my retirement earlier this year.

“May you have the hindsight to know where you've been,
the foresight to know where you are going,
and the insight to know when you have gone too far.”

I think that this proverb is a great basis of what I'm going to share with you today.

Hindsight. You've just seen the video profile, and I think it did a good job of telling you a little bit about myself and how I got to where I am today. I'll also share a little about our recent accomplishments.

Foresight. I'll share my thoughts about the future of Torrance.

And of course, insight. I'll touch base on how we plan to keep our City compass pointed in the right direction, with not only our diverse residents in mind, but also with you here today, our valued business community.

Through the video, you got a glimpse of who I am. But let me tell you what the June 3rd election delivered. A fresh City Council with a fully balanced background and experience. Now I know each and every one of you here today attend or watch the Torrance City Council Meetings... right?

So from my left to right on the Council dais – Geoff Rizzo, our first responder of 31 years, a retired Torrance Police Department Lieutenant, AYSO coach and youth football commissioner. Next is Heidi Ann Ashcraft – 12 years on the Torrance Unified School District Board as a member and president, PTA President, and 10 years on the Southern California Regional Occupational Center Board. Our veteran on the Council is Gene Barnett – retired Community Services Director who managed Parks & Recreation and Libraries during a 35-year career with the City. Our returning Councilmember Kurt Weideman, historian and aerospace retiree, past president and treasurer of the Torrance Historical Society, and former president of the Torrance Cultural Arts Foundation. Of course our new additions, Tim Goodrich who I may embarrass by announcing that he drives two electric vehicles, is a member of the Sierra Club, avid camper, environmental champion, who is also very educated on alternative fuel initiatives. And then on August 12th, we completed our Council with the appointment of Mike Griffiths, our businessman, planning commissioner, and longtime volunteer for the Torrance-South Bay YMCA... and me, well I'm the lawyer! I really can't imagine handpicking a better team that represents the professional and volunteer make-up of our great city. When we mention the "Torrance Advantage", well this is it – balance.

Prior to being elected Mayor, we encountered some economic challenges with the announcement of Toyota's plans to relocate. But recover and re-purpose is nothing new to Torrance. Our City has gone from oil fields, to manufacturing, to clean technology, and we will

continue to evolve. Toyota has been an excellent member of our community, and although they are moving, their support will be felt for many years to come.

Since taking office, I have been focused on energizing the business relationships we share both locally AND internationally. I am pleased to tell you that the City of Torrance remains strong and I, along with my colleagues, am keenly aware of our challenges. With foresight, I confront them every day, but strength is not measured by the absence of challenges. The strength of Torrance is measured by how well we respond to the challenges and how well we overcome the obstacles before us.

As I stand before you today, Torrance is the third largest sales tax revenue producer in the county of Los Angeles. I firmly believe that with the resources we have and the guidance we receive from you – our business professionals - we are positioned to be the economic nucleus of our region.

As your Mayor, in a very short amount of time I have personally met with and interacted with countless members of our business community – large and small - to encourage their efforts and to offer the support of the City of Torrance.

And I have met with a number of businesses – again large and small – several global I might add – who are considering relocating to Torrance. Their foresight coupled with the many "Torrance Advantages" of no gross receipts tax; competitive utilities and business license fees; clusters of major industries; skilled labor pools; proximity to Los Angeles and Long Beach Ports and LAX; freeway access; Zamperini Field; excellent year-round climate; beautiful open space; theatre and the arts; nationwide rankings for safety and livability, excellent schools; and a totally business friendly customer centered City. We have it all!

With foresight in mind, environmental impacts are something we've been keeping a close eye on and have been pursuing for years. And there is some added good news from our friends at American Honda – right here in Torrance. If you haven't seen it yet, Honda has been testing un-camouflaged hydrogen sedans around the area. This latest fuel-alternative vehicle is set to arrive in showrooms in 2015; it will be a nice compliment to their electric and hybrid vehicles.

We have continued the ribbon-cutting partnership with the Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce by attending grand openings and significant anniversaries of local businesses – again – large and small.

We are launching a series of breakfast meetings with various business groups – such as real estate professionals and the automotive and hospitality industries.

We are having an open dialogue with many of the mayors in Los Angeles County, and our elected leaders in the County of Los Angeles, Sacramento, and in Washington, DC, to address regional and statewide issues that affect us including water – transportation – and disaster preparedness.

And I'm excited to share an initiative that I announced in July: that we have begun the process to create a Torrance Economic Development Committee to help guide the city and bolster our efforts in attracting and retaining businesses in Torrance. The committee will be made up of experts like all of you in the audience today.

So.... where does our economy stand? Well, we'll continue to carry the torch of being fiscally prudent to survive the economic recovery. Cities – unlike states and the Federal government – must maintain a balanced budget. And all of you here know that Torrance has been doing just that! This year's updated budget looks to a positive future with recovering and growing revenues. We are achieving expected growth, and with those projections we allowed for some enhancement to safety programs, coverage for certain benefit cost increases, and pay raises for our employees.

More good news is unemployment rates have dropped since last year. The most recent comparable numbers from July 2014 show Torrance at an unemployment rate of 4 percent, - compared to the County at 8.2 percent, the State at 7.4 percent and the Nation at 6.2 percent, we're doing a pretty good job.

Torrance Unified School District remains the cornerstone of excellent education. Congratulations to our superintendent Dr. George Mannon and our Torrance School Board for all of their efforts. TUSD students have continued to excel, and the District as a whole has continued to succeed, year after year. Torrance students are constantly being recognized for accomplishments in academics and athletics, and the District for its enrichment programs such as service learning and environmental efforts.

Torrance schools have always been important to the Furey family. Our children attended these great schools and now our grandchildren do too! Terry and I have actively been involved in the Torrance Education Foundation for many years, and I even served four terms as

president of that wonderful organization. And, Terry has been employed by the district for almost 25 years.

Torrance youth continue to impress me with their excellence and spirit of giving, and it inspires me to continue to explore different ways to partner with them.

Our Students & Government Day provides a fantastic opportunity for our 8th grade students to be exposed to the vital role of local government, and to help our youth consider careers in public service. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for them to see City Government at work. I am happy to announce that we will continue this program, and 2015 will mark our 9th year of Students & Government Day.

It has been a pleasure for all of us in the City to interact with such a great group of kids. And with a little foresight, we will be instituting a Local Government Program geared toward our high school students. Staff is currently finalizing this program for our “soon to be” voters.

Speaking of educational foresight, I am very confident that the City will give its full support for School Bond Measures – T and U, because quality schools mean quality neighborhoods which attract quality businesses to locate and relocate in Torrance.

Speaking of quality of life, Torrance is fortunate to have so many great hospitals and medical centers to service the needs of our community. On September 20th many of us got to be a part of the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Lundquist Tower at Torrance Memorial Medical Center, and I have to say the new facility is remarkable! Their foresight in anticipating community needs of service has resulted in a 390,000-square-foot facility with 256 private patient rooms, 12 state-of-the-art operating rooms, 18 surgical/interventional treatment rooms, and 3 Cath Labs. Designed by Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design accredited staff, LEED as it's known, Lundquist Tower was built with the U.S. Green Building Council's rating system in mind, to ensure environmentally healthy quality standards in sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance recently earned Healthgrades' Patient Safety Excellence Achievement, ranking among the top 5 percent in the nation for two consecutive years!

In addition, they were also named to Becker's Hospital Review 100 Great Community Hospitals for the second

time – the only Southern California hospital on the national list and one of just two in California.

Not too far from the city limits, Kaiser-Permanente has a tremendous 112,000 square foot, award winning - full-service, modern hospital - offering care to its growing membership in Torrance and the South Bay. And, Kaiser even has a medical facility right on Madrona – not far from City Hall – where it serves the direct needs of our Torrance folks.

With those hospitals and so many other medical facilities like UCLA Health, Torrance can certainly hold claim to the title “Health Care Capital of Los Angeles County.”

Our great schools and healthcare really help us draw the best talent to work for our City. I have to commend City Staff for transitioning a practically brand new City Council with such ease. I know it has a lot to do with the great foresight and leadership we have in our City Manager, LeRoy Jackson. From our orientations with all of the department heads to getting us up to speed on the current issues facing Torrance, it has been a smooth transition, and I thank them all for their patience and dedicated support.

It's hard to miss the many men and women in uniform that protect us throughout our city, whether they're wearing a Fire or Police uniform, they're all working toward a safer community for our residents and for our business partners. The Torrance Fire Department is actively involved in many community events, most recently providing “hands-only” CPR training at the Rock Around the Block downtown event and also at the Chamber of Commerce Business Community outreach event.

Recently, two new fire engines were placed into service and next month, the Department is taking delivery of two rescue ambulances. These vehicles are new to the city fleet and will provide the department with the ability to transport patients.

In May, the City Manager appointed Mark Matsuda as the new Police Chief of the Torrance Police Department. And, with his leadership the Department continues to utilize social media to inform, educate, and connect with our community. The national campaign of “See Something, Say Something” was adopted by the department, and it has proven to be an effective way to engage and involve the community.

The Community Affairs Division is continuing to add

neighborhood watch and business watch programs throughout the city to further enhance our community. The Police Department continues to demonstrate foresight by staying ahead of crime trends. Forward Application Suppression Team or “FAST” capitalizes on resource flexibility which uses data to drive decision making and investigations in order to prevent criminal activity from taking root in the city.

And Gang Detectives continue to lead the South Bay AB 109 task force, supervising individuals that have qualified for early release under the state's criminal justice realignment system. Working closely with detectives, patrol officers, and forensics units, they form a collective team that is committed to maintaining a safe and secure Torrance.

Did you know Torrance is the 5th Best City for Retirement in California according to a national website? We were selected due to our thriving senior scene with 16 percent over the age of 60 and for being one of the safest cities in the Los Angeles area. Our good weather, sunny beach, and Madrona Marsh Nature Preserve, along with the shopping convenience of Del Amo Fashion Center also got us the thumbs up!

And that's not the only list we made. Another national website, MyLife.com named Torrance the 9th Best Mid-Size City in the United States to Raise Children. And it's no surprise why - our low crime rate, public school ranking, public parks per capita, average family income, and cost of living were all factors.

And just yesterday, Rent.com named Torrance the 15th best city for couples, noting that fifty-two percent of our adult population is married. Other criteria included crime rate, divorce rate, school systems, entertainment, nearby cities, recreation spaces, and dining.

As all of you know, Simon Property Group is in the midst of a comprehensive transformational redevelopment of the Del Amo Fashion Center. A new state of the art two-level mall and a new Nordstrom will open in the fall of 2015. And if you haven't visited the Center lately, the garden-inspired dining pavilion is now open and it's fantastic!

Automotive Dealerships in Torrance continue to improve and prosper. The foresight of our General Plan supports growth in this area, and one way to tell is by the quality of businesses that choose to locate there. On Hawthorne Blvd., Ferrari is in construction, and Maserati will let the good times roll at the site that was once Easy Life Furniture. These two luxury brands will be a nice addition to our Hawthorne corridor. Also on Hawthorne Blvd.,

I'm sure you've all noticed by now, Scott Robinson Honda is well on its way with a major renovation that's almost complete, and it has already changed the landscape of that portion of Hawthorne Boulevard.

By now, you must know that Costco is building a new home on the former Rockefeller site off of Lomita Blvd. This will expand their retail shopping to more than 160,000 square feet, along with a carwash, and 20-point gas station. And the former Dow Chemical site is also getting ready for change as the property has been subdivided into smaller parcels that can be sold individually. The City has met with several developers interested in many of the parcels.

Across the street is the former Ball Container site, now redeveloped into two buildings. Nutri-Bon, a manufacturer and national distributor of paper and plastic supplies for retail, education and institutional food services occupies 180,000 square feet; and a second building with over 266,000 square feet is available.

And to quell rumors, I want to officially say it here, despite Reuter's recent article claiming that Exxon Mobil may be up for sale, they are not going anywhere! I've talked to officials at our refinery, and they are excited to continue business right here in Torrance. A little controversy can be a good thing; it definitely keeps us on the map.

We are seeing synergies occurring all around the City. You're keenly aware of our automotive industries, but over the past few years we've grown into a major destination for craft breweries with Absolution being the most recent to open its doors. And just last month, The Dude's expanded its operations to include a new tasting room.

Another synergy is Torrance becoming a center for tourism and visitors due to our pristine parks, accommodations, facilities, and sports fields. This year we hosted the AYSO National Games that were featured on our newest open space, the TOYOTA Sports Complex. For the third year in a row we hosted the TNT National Fast-pitch Softball Tournament, and last month was the Herbalife Triathlon, from Miramar Park to the Hollywood Riviera and back to Torrance Beach. What an exciting day for not only the participants, but the residents as well.

And stay tuned, with similar collaboration we're exploring many more opportunities with the Torrance Visitor Bureau to allow more people to Discover Torrance.

The Torrance Transit Park & Ride Regional Terminal construction is anticipated to start in the summer of 2015 with plans to open in 2016. This project will interface with the regional rapid service and existing light rail. Torrance Transit with their new buses has established new lines, enhanced services, and a planned LAX Fly Away service.

At the City level, we are seeing the need to address issues of homelessness and what we can do with the mental health problems that are seemingly unaddressed by our health system. The Police Department is working with the County Department of Mental Health, and will soon have a full-time officer partnered with a full-time clinician to better serve this growing population.

Another area we will continue to address is the need for more foster care homes. My legal career made me acutely aware of the lack of foster homes for abused and neglected children in our County and even our City. A few years ago I started a campaign to raise awareness of this problem and many good people of Torrance have stepped forward, but more are needed. And, I know, that the more we can get the message out, more folks will open their hearts and homes to the most vulnerable children.

Governor Brown declared a statewide drought emergency and asked all Californians to reduce their water use by 20 percent. He just signed historic legislation requiring sustainable groundwater management for the first-time in California, and days later issued an executive order streamlining efforts to provide drinking and sanitation water to families in dire need.

We've already been working on this. In March of this year, Torrance was one the first cities to activate the "Level 1" shortage condition that increases current mandatory measures by prohibiting outdoor watering from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., limiting outdoor watering to three days per week, and requiring that all leaks be repaired within seven days.

In Torrance, water conservation and resources have been a priority for many years. Use of reclaimed water in Torrance open space and area businesses has saved millions of gallons of drinking water.

How many of you knew we have a desalination plant right here in Torrance? We do, and there is a planned expansion with about \$7 million in grants. The expansion will increase the facility's capacity from 2.75 million to 5 million gallons of potable water per year, which is about 20 to 25 percent of the Torrance Municipal Water potable supply.

There are also four groundwater wells being developed for the City of Torrance, another way we are working at becoming less reliant on imported water.

Droughts are cyclical, and in this severe drought, the next year is critical. We need to take a more proactive approach. It is with this in mind that the City's Public Works Department is expanding its outreach with a long-term campaign of conservation education within the community. The goal is to provide residents and businesses with the information needed to help drought-proof the community.

We continue to take advantage of opportunities to find ways to conserve energy. On-going projects include retrofitting city buildings, enhanced use of LED's in our campus and street lighting program, implementation of solar systems for the Plunge, and exploring other solar opportunities. And thanks to Torrance Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi's, bill AB 2188, installing rooftop solar energy systems for homeowners and businesses will be that much easier and now more affordable.

Our own Torrance CitiCABLE will soon be on broadcast television! Now anyone can get free digital television with just rabbit ears or a rooftop antennae connected to their TV. CitiCABLE will be seen on KNET 25.2 from Lancaster to Malibu to Riverside down to just south of Huntington Beach. This is great news! By going over-the-air, it provides yet another way for the community and the region to have transparent access to city information, especially in the event of a disaster. So you along with many others in our region will be able to watch the latest City Council meeting, News, Sports, Business Profile, and Entertainment programs almost anywhere in Los Angeles County!

Staying with transparency, the City of Torrance will soon be seeking proposals from experienced and professional firms to create a dynamic new citywide municipal website. The redesign for TorranceCA.Gov will be updated and organized in a manner that allows visitors with limited computer experience the ability to easily find and access information that utilizes current web, mobile, and social media technology to better engage and inform our constituency.

We are also excited about the upcoming launch of OpenGov, here you'll be able to see first-hand how the city collects and spends your tax dollars in an easy to view online format.

Now, Infrastructure ... I'm going to spend a little time

because there were two things voters expressed the most interest in this year: economic development and infrastructure.

Maintaining and extending the life of our roads is very important, and that's why we budget 1 million dollars annually through 2018 to our Residential Slurry Seal Program. We expect to cover approximately 6 million square feet of pavement per year. And we won't stop there! We also budgeted 1 million dollars annually for Arterial Street Pavement Sealing through 2018.

Beginning January 2015, Palos Verdes Boulevard between PCH and the south City limits will get rehabilitation as well as Madison Street and Skypark Drive.

In 2015, Hawthorne Boulevard between Pacific Coast Highway and the south City limit will also get improved roads.

And come summer next year, the Walteria area, west of Hawthorne Blvd. and north of Newton Street will also get a makeover. And in 2016, the PCH and Hawthorne Intersection will get a lot more attention with lane and signal improvements. As you can see, our foresight in road improvements is comprehensive.

Continuing its long-standing tradition, the City of Torrance will enter its 61st float in the 126th Tournament of Roses Parade themed "Inspiring Stories." The City Council voted just last month to fund the float with \$100,000. Torrance's float entry is a chance to shine a light on our great city before a worldwide audience. And to again honor our "Hometown Hero" Louis Zamperini. On January 1st the parade will be seen by more than 80 million people worldwide. Our entire City benefits from the publicity generated by our participation and members of our community can participate by volunteering to help decorate or by buying a vial in support of this great tradition.

The Torrance Area Chamber of Commerce will soon host iVET! Standing for "Increasing Veteran Employment in Torrance," which focuses on helping members navigate the difficult hiring process in finding the right veteran employee. The Chamber has partnered with a vast network of veteran service organizations that will pre-select a pool of 120 Veterans that match the pool of job listings obtained from Chamber members. From job fairs to workshops, these services will be available beginning this month.

Boosting our economic development in Torrance has always been a priority for me, and now that I have been elected Mayor, you can expect to see positive changes in

the development of our business community. Connecting our community to employment opportunities always ranks high on our list. So I've got some good news. Recently, we have started the process of transferring from the Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Board, which is headquartered in Long Beach, to the South Bay Workforce Investment Board. This move allows for continuity with the other South Bay cities, and we believe it's the best fit to provide employment and training services to better serve our community.

If vision and foresight in our community hasn't yet resonated, consider this. Since 1973, Torrance Sister City Association has been promoting friendship, goodwill, and understanding between the City of Torrance and the City of Kashiwa, Japan. The international relationship now spans generations, and the goal of TSCA is to provide resources for enhancing this people-to-people interaction.

I want to offer a special thanks to the Torrance Sister City Association for all of their efforts with this phenomenal program.

A major focus of my administration is International trade. Last month we hosted, in partnership with the Port of Long Beach, a Foreign Trade Zone Workshop in Torrance. The event was very well attended and shed light on significant opportunities a Foreign Trade Zone designation can have in saving taxes and increasing businesses bottom line. In addition, with the success of our excellent relationship with Kashiwa, we're inspired to explore the possibility of new sister city associations with China, Korea, and Germany. We see this as an excellent opportunity to develop relationships and to encourage foreign investment in Torrance.

As I mentioned during my campaign for Mayor, I want to keep Torrance moving in the right direction. We have a rich history and an even richer future. We have an abundance of talent in Torrance, both intellectual capital, as well as cutting edge businesses. Now is our opportunity to attract companies to expand in our city. I'll share a bit of insight with you. When I took office in July, I announced that an Economic Development Committee would be formed to help guide the city. The committee would be made up of experts like all of you in the audience today. This committee will be created in the next few months and will help Torrance grow our economic future.

Like many newly elected officials, we have several initiatives we'd like to undertake. But like all of these ideas

to improve life for our community we know funding is necessary. So today, although I'm not quite ready to announce the details, I have a transportation initiative that I hope to announce in the near future. Staff is already doing the groundwork and they are as excited as I am.

So consider this a preview, and remember what Albert Einstein said, "Imagination is everything. It is the preview of life's coming attractions."

I want to thank you all once again for joining me today to share with you what is in process, development, direction, and in store for Torrance. With your help and guidance, I know that we can continue to be trailblazers in our path to building relationships, partnerships, and economic development in our great City. Torrance's Advantage is a Balanced City. We have institutional history, inspired leadership, committed families, excellent public safety and schools, great neighborhoods and open space, rebounding and thriving businesses, and great opportunities for growth.

Thank you for allowing me to share the State of the City of Torrance with you and I want to leave you with the same balanced thought as I began... "May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, the foresight to know where you are going, and the insight to know when you have gone too far."